

22. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with a plurality of reference thumbprints in search of a match.

23. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the processor is contained within the stylus body.

24. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

25. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, including a memory device coupled to the sensor for storing the captured thumbprint.

26. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture a second print.

27. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture the thumbprint and the second print of the user at the same time.

28. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 20, including a second sensor coupled to the stylus body, the second sensor being adapted to capture a second print .

29. (New) An identity verification device, comprising:

a stylus having a body;

a sensor coupled to the body, the sensor being adapted to capture a thumbprint of a user as a user thumb touches the stylus body;

a memory device for storing at least one reference print; and,

a processor coupled to the sensor and the memory device, the processor being adapted to receive the captured thumbprint, the processor being adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with the at least one reference print.

30. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with the reference print to confirm the user identity.

31. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with a plurality of reference prints in search of a match.

32. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is contained within the stylus body.

33. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the processor is contained within an external system and wherein the stylus is digital communication with the external system.

34. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

35. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the memory device is adapted to store the captured thumbprint.

36. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture a second print .

37. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 36, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture the thumbprint and the second print of the user at the same time.

38. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, including a second sensor coupled to the body, the second sensor being adapted to capture a second print.

39. (New) An identity verification device, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the stylus is a pen and includes an ink tube.

40. (New) A stylus, comprising:
a body;
a sensor coupled to the body, the sensor being adapted to capture a fingerprint of a user as the user grasps the stylus;
a memory device within the body and being adapted to store at least one reference fingerprint; and,
a processor within the body and being coupled to the sensor and the memory device, the processor being adapted to receive the captured fingerprint, the memory device being adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference fingerprint.

41. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference print to confirm user identity.

42. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with a plurality of reference prints in search of a match.

43. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.

44. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the memory device is adapted to store the captured thumbprint.

45. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the sensor is adapted to capture a second print.

46. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, including a second sensor coupled to the body, the second sensor being adapted to capture a second print.

47. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 40, wherein the stylus is a pen and includes an ink tube.

48. (New). A stylus, comprising:

a body;

a sensor coupled to the body, the sensor being adapted to capture a fingerprint of a user as a user finger touches the stylus body;

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CDN¹ a memory device within the body, the memory device being adapted to store at least one reference fingerprint; and,

a processor within the stylus body and being coupled to the sensor, the processor being coupled to the memory device, the processor being adapted to receive the captured fingerprint, the processor being adapted to store the captured fingerprint within the memory device, and the memory device being adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference fingerprint.

49. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured fingerprint with the at least one reference print to confirm user identity.

50. (New) A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the processor is adapted to compare the captured thumbprint with a plurality of reference prints in search of a match.

51. (New). A stylus, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the sensor is a digital sensor.